



# Iran

## Baha'is

Baha'is face severe repression by Iran's government, which considers the group a "deviant sect of Islam." Recent amendments to Iran's Islamic Penal Code specifically target Baha'is. Members of the community are subject to closure of their businesses, denial of higher education, arrest, and prolonged detention on spurious charges.



### Mahvash Sabet

#### RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Baha'i

#### ARRESTED:

July 31, 2022

#### SENTENCE:

10 Years' Imprisonment

#### REPORTS OF TORTURE:

Yes

#### REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Leading the Baha'i community

## Christians

Christians in Iran face government harassment and severe limitations on the practice, teaching, worship, and observance of their faith. Muslims who convert to Christianity are often singled out for persecution, with security forces often raiding Christian house churches and imprisoning Christian converts under false pretenses.



### Anooshavan Avedian

#### RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Christian

#### ARRESTED:

September 18, 2023

#### SENTENCE:

10 Years' Imprisonment

#### RELIGIOUS LEADER:

Yes

#### REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Leading a house church

## Gonabadi Sufis

Gonabadi Sufis are systematically targeted in Iran as a Muslim religious minority. Several community members have been arrested, imprisoned, and tortured. In recent years, Gonabadi Sufi prisoners have died as a result of extreme medical negligence.



### Hamid Gharehassanlou

#### RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Gonabadi Sufi

#### ARRESTED:

November 4, 2022

#### SENTENCE:

Reduced to 15 Years' Imprisonment;  
Originally Death

#### REPORTS OF TORTURE:

Yes

#### REPORTS OF MEDICAL NEGLECT:

Yes

#### REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Protesting religious freedom conditions

## Women & Girls Protesting Mandatory Hijab Laws

Iranian women and girls peacefully protesting mandatory hijab laws rooted in the government's religious interpretations have faced surveillance, harassment, arrest, incognito detention, torture, and murder. Some of the victims of this mistreatment are as young as 16.



### Golrokhs Iraee

#### RELIGION OR BELIEF:

Shi'a

#### ARRESTED:

November 9, 2019

#### SENTENCE:

5 Years' Imprisonment

#### REASON FOR PERSECUTION:

Writing an unpublished story criticizing the religiously grounded practice of stoning adulterers

## FoRB Victims List Stats

**339 out of 2,125**

Religion or Belief	# of Victims
Baha'i	161
Sufi	59
Yarsani	37
Christian	37
Unknown/Unspecified	21
Sunni	13
Shi'a	4
Unspecified/Other Muslim	4
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	2
ECKist	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>

Type of Abuse	# of Victims
Imprisoned	194
Detained	136
House Arrest	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>339</b>

## Average Prison Sentence

**4 Years, 7 Months**

Reports of	# of Victims
Torture	15
Medical Neglect	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>76</b>



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## Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

*make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].*

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at [www.uscif.gov/form/uscif-victims-list-intake-form](http://www.uscif.gov/form/uscif-victims-list-intake-form).

## FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

Perpetrator	Victims Documented	Religion or Belief	Victims Documented
Algeria	5	Adivasi	1
Azerbaijan	11	Baha'i	163
Burma	5	Bon	1
China	770	Buddhist – Hoa Hao	6
Cuba	11	Buddhist – Theravada	3
Egypt	18	Buddhist – Tibetan	76
Eritrea	50	Buddhist – Unspecified/Other	28
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)	2	Christian – Catholic	46
Houthi	3	Christian – Church of Almighty God	236
India	55	Christian – Jehovah's Witness	258
Indonesia	8	Christian – Orthodox	17
Iran	339	Christian – Protestant	130
Iraq	2	Christian – Unspecified/Other	66
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)	1	Duong Van Minh	4
Kazakhstan	15	ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Malaysia	4	Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	2
Nicaragua	15	Falun Gong	213
Nigeria	9	Hindu	10
North Korea	9	Humanist	1
Pakistan	90	Jewish	1
Russia	449	Muslim – Ahmadiyya	23
Saudi Arabia	46	Muslim – Qur'anist	1
Sri Lanka	1	Muslim – Shi'a	39
Tajikistan	13	Muslim – Sufi	63
Turkmenistan	30	Muslim – Sunni	385
Uzbekistan	87	Muslim – Unspecified/Other	237
Vietnam	77	Santeria	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,125</b>	Scientologist	1
		Shaman	1
		Sikh	1
		Yarsani	37
		Unknown/Unspecified	69
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2,125</b>



# Iran

## Not Released

Abdolaziz Omarzahi  
 Abdollah Barahouie  
 Abdolsadeh Azari  
 Abdulmajid Moradzahi  
 Afshin Azimi  
 Ali Nazari  
 Amin Malekzade  
 Amin Sharifi  
 Arash Nabavi  
 Arash Zamani  
 Armaghan Zabihi  
 Bardia Basiri  
 Bardia Tajdini  
 Behieh Manavipour  
 Behnam Pour-Ahmadi  
 Elaheh Mohammadi  
 Faezeh Abdipour  
 Faezeh Ranai  
 Farid Alavi  
 Farzad Rahmatabadi  
 Fathi Mohammad Naghshbandi  
 Foad Shaker  
 Ghadir Rahimi  
 Ghazal Pakzad  
 Gholamreza Keyvanmanesh  
 Hamid Afshari  
 Hamid Gorgin  
 Hamid Zandi Nejhad  
 Hanan Hashemi  
 Hasan Nisi  
 Homayoun Khanlori  
 Jamaloddin Khanjani  
 Jome Naami  
 Kaki Farzad Almasi  
 Kaki Saeed Almasi  
 Kamyab Heidari  
 Keyvan Rahimian  
 Mahsa Mohammadi  
 Mansour Safayi  
 Maria Khanjani  
 Masoum Razavi  
 Matin Gorji  
 Mehr-Ali Hemmati  
 Meraj Hemmati

Meysam Azimi  
 Mishak Manavipour  
 Mohammad Bahrami  
 Mohammad Chegini  
 Mohammad Golbaz  
 Mojgan Samimi  
 Mona Ghodrat  
 Mostafa Khosravi  
 Naghi Rahmani  
 Nahaleh Shahidi  
 Nakisa Hajipour  
 Navid Hassanolou  
 Negar Ighani  
 Nemat Pourvali  
 Nematollah Shadpour  
 Niloufar Hamedi  
 Nima Mahin Bakht  
 Nima Shadpour  
 Niusha Badiei Sabet  
 Noshad Taheri  
 Paridokht Shojaei  
 Pooya Saraf  
 Rashid Mohammadi  
 Reyhaneh Pakzad  
 Reza Radmanesh  
 Saeed Soltanpour  
 Saha Sabeti  
 Sara Mottaghi  
 Seyed Ali Dakei  
 Seyed Farhad Zalnouri  
 Seyed Fariborz Shah-Ebrahimi  
 Seyed Freydoun Taheri  
 Seyed Foad Shah-Ebrahimi  
 Seyed Shahroo Shah-Ebrahimi  
 Shafiq Eslami  
 Shaghayegh Bahrami  
 Shaghayegh Khaneh-Zarin  
 Shahdokht Khanjani  
 Shahram Fallah  
 Shahram Naderi  
 Shahrouz Esmaeili  
 Shayan Gholami  
 Shiva Kashani-Nejad  
 Siavash Kaliani

Siroos Zabihi  
 Suzan Eid Mohammadzadegan  
 Yekta Fallah  
 Zhila Sharafi Nasrabad  
 Elham Salmanzadeh  
 Houman Khoshnam  
 Jamileh Pakrou  
 Kianoush Salmanzadeh  
 Neda Shabani  
 Parvan Manavi  
 Payam Shabani  
 Peyman Manavi  
 Soroush Agahi  
 Abdolrahim Kouhi  
 Abdorreza Ali Haghnejad  
 Adel Naimi  
 Afif Naeimi  
 Afshin Bulbulan  
 Ahmad Sarparast  
 Ali Sani  
 Alireza Nourmohammadi  
 Amanollah Balochi  
 Ameen Khaki  
 Amin Zolfaghari  
 Anoush Rayeneh  
 Arash Rasekh  
 Ardesir Fanaian  
 Atollah Zafar  
 Ayub Pour Rezazadeh  
 Behnam Eskandarian  
 Bita Haghghi  
 Elham Shareghi Arani  
 Enayatollah Naeimi  
 Farhang Sahba  
 Fariba Ashtari  
 Fariba Kamalabadi  
 Farid Zirgi Moghaddam  
 Farzaneh Gharehassanlou  
 Fatemeh Sepehri  
 Golrooz Ebrahimi Iraee  
 Hadi Rahimi  
 Hami Bahadori  
 Hamid Gharehassanlou  
 Hayedeh Ram

Joseph Shahbazian  
 Kamyar Habibi  
 Karsa Nouri  
 Mahboubeh Misaghian  
 Mahnaz Jan Nesar  
 Mahsa Tirgar Bahnemiri  
 Mahvash Sabet  
 Mansour Amini  
 Maral Rasti  
 Marjan Davari  
 Maryam Nematollahi  
 Mehrallah Afshar  
 Milad Davardan  
 Mohammad Nouri  
 Mohammad Sharifi Moghaddam  
 Mohsen Afrouz  
 Mojahed Kourkour  
 Morteza Mashhood Kari  
 Nakisa Sadeghi  
 Nasim Ghanvatian  
 Negar Darabi  
 Negin Rezaie  
 Noushin Jafari  
 Parisa Roohi Zadegan  
 Parizad Hamidi Shafagh  
 Payam Vali  
 Rameleh Tirkarnejad  
 Sabin Yazdani  
 Sadaf Sheikhzadeh  
 Sakineh Behjati  
 Saman Ostovar  
 Samin Ehsani  
 Samiyeh Gholinejad  
 Sanaz Tafazoli  
 Sepehr Ziae  
 Shadi Shahidzadeh  
 Shahnaz Sabet  
 Shahrzad Mastouri  
 Shakila Monfared  
 Sina Dehghan  
 Valiollah Ghadiani  
 Zeynab Jalalian  
 Zhila Shahriari

## Released

Abdolhamid Masoumi Tehrani  
 Afnaneh Nematian  
 Aida Rasti  
 Alhan Hashemi  
 Anahita Khadem  
 Anis Sanaie  
 Atash Shahkarami  
 Badie Khazei  
 Basir Samimi  
 Behnam Momtaz  
 Ebrahim Firouzi  
 Faran Senai  
 Faraz Haghigatjoo  
 Farbod Alavi  
 Golbon Fallah  
 Hengameh Alipour  
 Javad Karimzai  
 Leili Karami  
 Mahsa Fathi  
 Mani Gholinejad  
 Massoud Momtaz  
 Melika Qaragozlu  
 Mojir Samimi  
 Nazanin Goli  
 Niloufar Hosseini  
 Parwa Behdad  
 Pouya Nowroozi  
 Rooha Imani  
 Saeedeh Khozui

Sam Samimi  
 Saman Khadem  
 Sanaz Hekmat-Shoar  
 Sepideh Rashnu  
 Seyyed-Karam Abbasi  
 Seyyed-Soroush Abbasi  
 Shayan Senai  
 Sholeh Shahidi  
 Siavash Hayati  
 Soheil Arabi  
 Soori Babaei Chegini  
 Syeed-Amin Abbasi  
 Vesal Momtazi  
 Yashar Rasti  
 Abbas Dehghan  
 Abdollah Esmaili  
 Afsaneh Emami  
 Ahmad Iranikhah  
 Akbar Biranvand  
 Alborz Eskandari  
 Ali Akbar Dadashi  
 Ali Reza Azadravesh  
 Ali Reza Lak  
 Amir Nouri  
 Ardesir Ashayeri  
 Azita Rafizadeh  
 Babak Hosseinzadeh  
 Babak Moradi  
 Babak Taghian

Bahareh Zayni  
 Bakhtiar Arefi  
 Bashir Riahi  
 Behnam Akhlaghi  
 Behnoud Pourostami  
 Behrouz Sadeghi  
 Ehsan Malek Mohammadi  
 Elham Choubdar  
 Fardin Naddafian  
 Farhad Fahandezh  
 Fariba Dalir  
 Farnam Farhang  
 Farzad Homayouni  
 Fatemeh Bakhtari  
 Firoozeh Soltan Mohammadi  
 Foujan Rashidi  
 Haleh Gholami  
 Hamid Naseri  
 Hassan Sarvestani Momtaz  
 Hesam Moeini  
 Heydar Teymouri  
 Homayoun Zhavesh  
 Hossein Arang  
 Hossein Kadivar  
 Jafar Ahmadi  
 Javad Khomeis Abadi  
 Kamal Naamanian  
 Khalil Dehghanpur  
 Kianoush Abbaszadeh

Mahboub Habibi  
 Mahrokh Ghanbari  
 Majid Kashan  
 Majid Moradi  
 Majid Rashidi  
 Malihe Nazari  
 Manouchehr Rahmani  
 Mehdi Izadpanah  
 Mehdi Keyvanlou  
 Mehdi Khatibi  
 Mehdi Mah davifar  
 Mehran Asgharzadeh  
 Milad Goudarzi  
 Mohammad Ali Mosayebzadeh  
 Mohammad Hassan Shah Reza  
 Mohammad Karimaei  
 Mohammad Reza Darvishi  
 Mohammad Reza Omidi  
 Mohammad Roghangir  
 Mohammed Vafadar  
 Mohsen Azizi  
 Mojtaba Biranvand  
 Monireh Arabshahi  
 Morteza Kangarloo  
 Mostafa Abdi  
 Mostafa Mir Mohammadi  
 Nahid Behshid  
 Naser Navard Gol tapeh  
 Nasim Kashani Nejad



# Iran

## Released (continued)

Nazila Nouri  
 Negin Ghadamian  
 Payman Koushk-Baghi  
 Pezhman Shahriari  
 Rahele Ahmadi  
 Rasoul Hoveyda  
 Reza Entesari  
 Reza Sigarchi  
 Reza Yavari Motlagh  
 Saba Kord Afshari

Sadegh Gheysari  
 Saeed Dourandish  
 Saeed Ettehad  
 Saeed Goudarzi  
 Saeed Karimaei  
 Saeed Khamoshi  
 Saeed Naseri  
 Saham Armin  
 Sahba Farnoush  
 Salehoddin Moradi

Samin Maghsoudi  
 Sara Ahmadi  
 Sekhavat Salimi  
 Sevada Aghasar  
 Shahnam Jazbani  
 Shahram Najaf-Tomaraei  
 Shahrooz Eslamdoust  
 Shokoufeh Yadollahi Farsi  
 Siamak Honarvar  
 Sina Entesari

Sohrab Naghipour  
 Vahed Kholousi  
 Vahid Khamoshi  
 Yalda Firouzian  
 Yasaman Ariani  
 Youcef Nadarkhani  
 Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani  
 Zaman Fadaei

## Unknown

Abdolreza Miraghasi  
 Arezou Mohammadi

Ataollah Melaki  
 Atieh Salehi

Hiwa Yazdan Mehdi Abadi  
 Mitra Bandi Amirabadi

Roya Melaki

## Died in Custody

Mahsa Amini

Seyyed Sadrullah Fazeli Zare

Yusef Mehrdad